



Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 5 LA.A.1.2.3 Vocabulary Form C

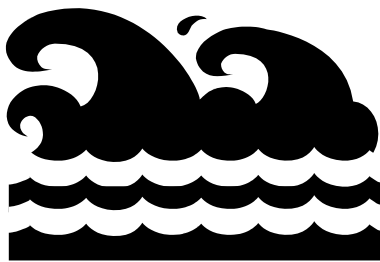
Michael Jordan: Not Always A Winner

As Ron Knapp writes in his book *Michael Jordan: Star Guard*, "There is little doubt that Michael Jordan is one of the greatest basketball players of all time." Most basketball fans, other professional basketball players, sportscasters, and sports writers seem to agree. They point out Jordan's successes: as a high school basketball player; as *Sporting News* College Player of the Year after the 1982-83 college basketball season; as a first-round draft pick by the NBA's Chicago Bulls; as recipient of at least five NBA championship rings and two Olympic gold medals; as winner of numerous other awards (most valuable player in the NBA, in NBA all-star games, and in NBA playoffs); as an overwhelming success in advertising, business, and films. In addition, Michael Jordan is a loving father.



In short, most of us know Michael Jordan as an unqualified success, a winner at almost everything he does. What many of us don't know is that Michael Jordan, like other human beings, has not always met with success. This superstar has had to deal with his share of failures.

Michael was always very close to his father, who was good at making things with his hands. His father had a workshop in the family garage. Michael never felt comfortable working with his father's tools. One time, when he was five, Michael was using his father's axe. Michael ended up hitting his big toe. Even now, his mother says that if Michael were handed a wrench, he'd only be confused. As a builder or fixer-upper around the house, Michael has not been successful.



Michael is unable to swim. When he was seven years old, he and a friend were playing in the Atlantic Ocean. Neither of the boys could swim. They were body surfing and riding the waves. Suddenly a large wave knocked them down. It started to drag them into deeper water. Although Michael tried to save his friend, he couldn't swim well enough to do so. His friend drowned. Michael Jordan had yet another bad swimming experience while in college. To complete requirements for his degree at the

University of North Carolina, Michael was required to swim one length of the university pool. Although he tried, he had to be thrown a life preserver. He is one of the finest athletes in the world, yet Michael Jordan fears the water and refuses to swim.

As a youngster Michael thought he was a failure with girls. When he was in fifth grade, he liked a girl named Angela West. He really wanted her to like him. She rode the same school bus. He always saved her a seat next to him. However, Angela refused to sit in the seat beside him. Instead, she would squeeze into a seat already occupied by two or even three girls. Apparently girls wanted him to be their friend but not their boyfriend. He was so worried about his lack of success with girls that he took a home economics class every year during high school. In those classes he learned to cook, sew, and clean house.



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Even with all of his achievements on the basketball court, Michael Jordan was not always successful even there. In fact, he was cut from the Laney High School varsity team when he was a sophomore. The coaches thought that he wasn't big enough. It was a particularly bitter experience for him. His brother Larry, who was shorter than Michael, made the team. When his name did not appear on the posted list of varsity players, Michael went home to his room, closed the door, and cried. When he told his mother what had happened, they cried together. Although he made the team in his junior year, this failure had a lasting effect on him.

The most publicized failure of Michael's career occurred when he announced his retirement from basketball after the 1993 championship season. He expected to play major-league baseball for the Chicago White Sox. However, his tremendous basketball skills didn't carry over to the baseball diamond. As a result, he spent two years trying to become a successful professional baseball player. He returned to the Bulls in the middle of the 1995 season. His basketball skills were a bit rusty, and the Bulls lost in the playoffs.



Michael Jordan has seen his share of success and failure. However, he has remarkable resilience, the ability to bounce back from disappointment. His mother says that Michael was a fierce competitor even as a child. He is still competitive. The ability to compete with life's problems has served Michael well on and off the basketball court.

MICHAEL JORDAN INFORMATION

Born: February 17, 1963

High School: Laney High School in Wilmington, North Carolina

College: North Carolina, graduated 1985

Height: 6' 6"

Weight: 216 pounds

NBA Experience: 14 seasons

Drafted: by Chicago in the first round NBA draft in 1984

Position Played: guard

Some statistics from his career:

Highest number of points in one game: 69 on March 28, 1990

Minutes played in one game: 56 on February 3, 1992

Michael is also committed to many children's and family causes. He is also involved in many charities, including the Boys & Girls Club of America and the Special Olympics.

Michael is also involved in many businesses. He has his own restaurants, and he appears in commercials for many products. He is well known and people are interested in the products he advertises.

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Name _____ **Date** _____

Directions: Read the article “Michael Jordan: Not Always A Winner”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Read these sentences from the article.

Michael Jordan has seen his share of success and failure. However, he has remarkable resilience, the ability to bounce back from disappointment.

Which word has the SAME root as *disappointment*?

- A. disposable
 - B. disapproval
 - C. disappointed
 - D. disappearance
2. Which two words from the article have almost the SAME meaning?
- A. retired, served
 - B. occurred, happened
 - C. publicized, expected
 - D. announced, returned

3. Read these sentences from the article.

What many of us don’t know is that Michael Jordan, like other human beings, has not always met with success. This superstar has had to deal with his share of failures.

Which word means the OPPOSITE of *failures*?

- A. achievements
- B. competitions
- C. experiences
- D. requirements

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4. When Michael's mother says, "if Michael were handed a wrench, he'd only be confused" she means that Michael
- A. has never seen a wrench.
 - B. has never tried to use any tools.
 - C. would probably injure himself with a wrench.
 - D. is not very successful at building or fixing things.
5. When the author writes that "Michael Jordan is an unqualified success" he means that Michael
- A. is not qualified to be successful.
 - B. very rarely succeeds at things he tries.
 - C. has succeeded at most things he has tried.
 - D. would be more successful if he tried harder.

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Answer Key – Michael Jordan

LA.A.1.2.3: Using context clues, prefixes, suffixes, root words, word relationships (including multiple meanings, antonyms, synonyms, homonyms, homophones, and word origins), the student identifies the meaning of a word or phrase in a passage and/or graphic. Analysis and/or inference may be required to comprehend the meaning of the word or phrase.

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